JSC Standards of Ethical Conduct Determination [Section 2635.204(g)(2)-(6) -- Widely Attended Gatherings]

On November 20, 2004, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Region V, is hosting a dinner and awards ceremony, the Vanguard Awards Banquet and Ceremony, at the Hilton Americas, downtown Houston (Grand Ballroom A & B) as part of their annual conference of November 19-20, 2004. Approximately 600 people will be in attendance at the awards dinner.

The NASA Johnson Space Center is conducting 12 of the 52 workshops offered at the conference and is printing the conference booklet. Dr. Julian Earls, Director, NASA Glenn Research Center, will be the keynote speaker at the Vanguard Awards Ceremony, and General Jefferson D. Howell, Jr., Director, NASA Johnson Space Center, will introduce the keynote speaker. The NSBE Region V is composed of 10 states, including Texas.

People from NASA, the engineering community, the aerospace community, and other community businesses have been invited to attend this event. The event is of direct interest to NASA and serves as a forum for facilitating the widest practicable dissemination of information concerning the Agency, the U.S. civilian space programs, and NASA educational and community outreach.

It is my determination that it is in the Agency's interest for NASA attendees and their guests to attend this event. Their attendance outweighs any concern that the acceptance of any benefits may, or may appear to improperly influence any NASA employee in the performance of official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their guests are authorized to attend and to accept any food offered in conjunction with this event, at no cost.

Saniel R. Remington Deputy Chief Counsel

AA/J. D. Howell, Jr. AJ/G. G. Stiner

AJ/S. Turner